

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Case number (if known)

Chapter you are filing under:

☒ Chapter 7

☐ Chapter 11

☐ Chapter 12

☐ Chapter 13

☐ Check if this an amended filing

Official Form 101

Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy

12/15

The bankruptcy forms use you and Debtor 1 to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*—and in joint cases, these forms use you to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, “Do you own a car,” the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

Part 1: Identify Yourself

About Debtor 1:

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

1. Your full name

Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport).

Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.

Tiffany

First name

F

Middle name

Decker

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

First name

Middle name

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years

Include your married or maiden names.

FKA Tiffany F. Sapyta

3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)

xxx-xx-0973

Debtor 1 **Tiffany F Decker**

Case number (if known)

About Debtor 1:

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years

☒ I have not used any business name or EINs.

☐ I have not used any business name or EINs.

Include trade names and *doing business as* names

Business name(s)

Business name(s)

EINs

EINs

5. Where you live

**801 Hedge Maple Drive, Apt. 109
Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Lake

County

If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

County

If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy

Check one:

☒ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason.
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Check one:

☐ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason.
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Debtor 1 **Tiffany F Decker**

Case number (if known) _____

Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case

7. **The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under** *Check one.* (For a brief description of each, see *Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)*). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.
- ☒ Chapter 7
- ☐ Chapter 11
- ☐ Chapter 12
- ☐ Chapter 13
-
8. **How you will pay the fee** ☒ **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.
- ☐ **I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).
- ☐ **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.
-
9. **Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?** ☒ No.
- ☐ Yes.
- | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
-
10. **Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?** ☒ No.
- ☐ Yes.
- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Debtor _____ | Relationship to you _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ |
| Debtor _____ | Relationship to you _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ |
-
11. **Do you rent your residence?** ☐ No. Go to line 12.
- ☒ Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you and do you want to stay in your residence?
- ☒ No. Go to line 12.
- ☐ Yes. Fill out *Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You* (Form 101A) and file it with this bankruptcy petition.

Debtor 1 **Tiffany F Decker**

Case number (if known)

Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor

12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?

☒ No. Go to Part 4.

☐ Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

Name of business, if any

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Check the appropriate box to describe your business:

- ☐ Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
- ☐ Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
- ☐ Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
- ☐ Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
- ☐ None of the above

13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and are you a small business debtor?

For a definition of *small business debtor*, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. 1116(1)(B).

☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.

☐ No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11 and I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention

14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?

☒ No.

☐ Yes. What is the hazard? _____

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed? _____

For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?

Where is the property? _____

Number, Street, City, State & Zip Code

Debtor 1 **Tiffany F Decker**

Case number (if known)

Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling

15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

About Debtor 1:

You must check one:

- ☒ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy. If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

- ☐ **Incapacity.**
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver credit counseling with the court.

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

You must check one:

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

- ☐ **Incapacity.**
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Debtor 1 **Tiffany F Decker**

Case number (if known)

Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes

16. What kind of debts do you have?	16a.	Are your debts primarily consumer debts? <i>Consumer debts</i> are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose." <input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.
	16b.	Are your debts primarily business debts? <i>Business debts</i> are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment. <input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16c. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.
	16c.	State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts

17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?	<input type="checkbox"/> No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
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18. How many Creditors do you estimate that you owe?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-49 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-99 <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199 <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999	<input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001-10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000
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19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion
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20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?	<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion
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Part 7: Sign Below**For you**

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

/s/ Tiffany F Decker**Tiffany F Decker**

Signature of Debtor 1

Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on **November 17, 2017**

MM / DD / YYYY

Executed on

MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1 **Tiffany F Decker**

Case number (if known)

For your attorney, if you are represented by one

If you are not represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

/s/ Steven J. Brody

Signature of Attorney for Debtor

Date

November 17, 2017

MM / DD / YYYY

Steven J. Brody 06205619

Printed name

Steven J. Brody & Associates, Ltd.

Firm name

**15 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Contact phone

Email address

06205619

Bar number & State

Steven J. Brody & Associates, Ltd.
Attorneys at Law
15 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
Telephone (815) 479-8800
Facsimile (815) 479-8880

August 19, 2017

Tiffany Sapyta
801 Hedge Maple Drive, Apt. 109
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

Re: Fee Agreement - legal services, Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

Dear Ms. Sapyta:

This letter will confirm the fee agreement between you and Steven J. Brody & Associates, Ltd., ("SJB&A"), regarding our legal representation of you with regard to your possible bankruptcy proceedings. While you have inquired of the firm regarding the filing of a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, the firm will not be able to provide a recommendation as to whether you are eligible to file Chapter 7 and whether that filing is advisable until the firm receives the following documentation from you:

- A completed questionnaire provided to you by SJB&A regarding your debts, assets and financial affairs;
- Copies of check stubs for your income of any kind during the last six (6) months;
- Copies of your tax returns for the last four (4) years;
- A current credit report from one of the three (3) providers of the same;
- Copies of your bills for the last three (3) months, including but not limited to credit cards, mortgages, utility bills, car payments, student loans, tax bills, etc.

Once the above documentation is received, SJB&A will be able to review your situation, evaluate the appropriateness of Chapter 7 and make its recommendation to you as to the best Chapter to file if any. The non-refundable fee to SJB&A for this initial review and advice is **\$0.00**, which will be credited toward any bankruptcy services SJB&A provides you after it makes its recommendation.

Our fees for our services and costs in this Chapter 7 bankruptcy are **\$2,875.00**, comprising **\$2,500.00** for legal services and **\$375.00** for costs SJB&A will incur in representing you. These costs include **\$335.00** for the filing fee charges by the Bankruptcy Court, **\$TBD** for asset and record searches, and **\$40.00** for securing a credit reports. While SJB&A may accept installments for fees and costs, we will not file the Bankruptcy Petition until all fees and costs have been paid in full. The attorneys' fees quoted are for a "normal" bankruptcy, i.e. one in which we

- prepare and file one draft of your Bankruptcy Petition and supporting documents,
- attend a creditors meeting with you (discussed below),
- are not required to defend you against legal challenges to your petition in the bankruptcy court

- by your creditors or the bankruptcy trustee, and are given accurate and compete information as to your financial situation, debts and assets.

At the time of its recommendation to you, SJB&A will quote you a fee for the services it offers based on your eligibility for Chapter 7 or 13 and based on the anticipated complexity of your case. If the fee quote for Chapter 7 services exceeds the amount normally charged for such services, SJB&A will give you specific reasons why the fee is higher.

Under the federal Bankruptcy Code, SJB&A is required to enter into a written contract with you and to make certain disclosures to you prior to the provision of services. Copies of these disclosure forms are attached to and incorporated by reference into this contract.

While other attorneys may be involved in your case from time to time, you are most likely to work with attorney Steven J. Brody. Steven J. Brody & Associates, Ltd., frequently shares responsibility and tasks in bankruptcy cases with other law firms. If Mr. Brody is not available please leave a message and he will return your call as soon as possible.

All bankruptcy attorneys are required to have their fees reviewed and approved by the Court. The amount you pay us will be reflected in the Bankruptcy Petition, and reasonable fees are approved by the Court without any further action by the Debtor(s) or the attorney. If we are required to do legal work beyond the "normal" duties listed above, we may ask the Court to allow us to charge additional fees over and above the original retainer.

Once your Petition is filed, the Court schedules a **Creditors' Meeting** at which you will be examined by the Bankruptcy Trustee about the contents and accuracy of your Petition. This meeting is generally held four to six weeks after the filing of the Petition. Creditors may attend, and they may also ask questions (though most creditors don't). Our advice for this meeting is simple; cooperate, tell the truth, and don't wear any clothes or jewelry that might be considered "flashy". We will discuss what you can expect at the creditors' meeting in more detail once it is scheduled.

Some of your creditors may offer you a **Reaffirmation Agreement**. This is a new contract between you and the creditors in which you agree to keep paying their debt; the debt is thus not discharged (i.e. forgiven) in the bankruptcy. Subsequent breach of a reaffirmation agreement by you will allow the creditor to take any collection action available to them under the law. Our services in negotiating Reaffirmation Agreements and appearing at Court hearings regarding such Agreements *are excluded from this retainer*; if these services are required, we will negotiate a separate retainer for those services and petition the Court to approve those fees.

By filing bankruptcy, you are asking the Court to give you a **discharge** for your debts, i.e. giving you permission not to pay them. While most of your debts are dischargeable, some are not, including but not limited to:

- taxes and monies owed to government entities;
- wages owed to employees;
- most government guaranteed student loans
- debts incurred by fraud.

The last item is critical. If you incur debt when you are already **considering** filing bankruptcy (for instance by charging on a credit card), that creditor may be able to get an order from the Court stating that their debt is not discharged. If you incur a debt within sixty (60) days fo filing bankruptcy, the Court is authorized to presume that the debt was incurred fraudulently. If there is enough appearance of fraud, the Court can dismiss your petition altogether. In that event, your case would be terminated and you would get no financial relief. The key to avoiding this problem is to be **honest**. List all of your debts and assets and **do not** use your charge cards.

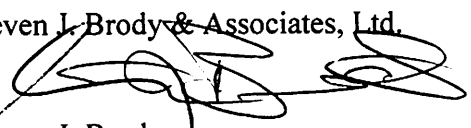
Please note that you may stop paying any unsecured creditor whose debt you intend to discharge. You should continue to pay your secured creditors, including but not limited to holders of mortgages and car loans that you intend to keep.

We will retain your files and records in accordance with the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct. These rules require that various files and records be retained for a period of 5 to 7 years depending on the type of record or file. However, we may retain such records for a longer period of time. Moreover, said files and records may be maintained in either paper or electronic format. Any disposed files and records will be shredded or otherwise disposed in a manner that your personal identity information and other private matters are unrecognizable.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and agreement with its terms by signing the enclosed copy of the letter and returning same to our office along with a check or money order for your retainer. Thank you for allowing us to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Brody & Associates, Ltd.


Steven J. Brody

ACCEPTED: 

DATE: 8/19/17

DATE: _____

Enclosures- Disclosures to Most Bankruptcy Filers Required by 11 U.S.C. 527 (a)(1)
Disclosures to Most Bankruptcy Filers Required by 11 U.S.C. 527 (a)(2)
Disclosures to Most Bankruptcy Filers Required by 11 U.S.C. 527 (b)
Consent for Attorney to Conduct Independent Investigation
Notice to Individual Consumer Debtor Regarding Credit Counseling and Financial
Management Instructional Course
Current List of Approved Credit Counseling Agencies in Northern District of
Illinois

Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)

This notice is for you if:

You are an individual filing for bankruptcy,
and

Your debts are primarily consumer debts.
Consumer debts are defined in 11 U.S.C.
§ 101(8) as "incurred by an individual
primarily for a personal, family, or
household purpose."

The types of bankruptcy that are available to individuals

Individuals who meet the qualifications may file under
one of four different chapters of Bankruptcy Code:

Chapter 7 - Liquidation

Chapter 11 - Reorganization

Chapter 12 - Voluntary repayment plan
for family farmers or
fishermen

Chapter 13 - Voluntary repayment plan
for individuals with regular
income

**You should have an attorney review your
decision to file for bankruptcy and the choice of
chapter.**

Chapter 7: Liquidation

	\$245	filing fee
	\$75	administrative fee
+	\$15	trustee surcharge
	\$335	total fee

Chapter 7 is for individuals who have financial difficulty preventing them from paying their debts and who are willing to allow their nonexempt property to be used to pay their creditors. The primary purpose of filing under chapter 7 is to have your debts discharged. The bankruptcy discharge relieves you after bankruptcy from having to pay many of your pre-bankruptcy debts. Exceptions exist for particular debts, and liens on property may still be enforced after discharge. For example, a creditor may have the right to foreclose a home mortgage or repossess an automobile.

However, if the court finds that you have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge.

You should know that even if you file chapter 7 and you receive a discharge, some debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible to pay:

most taxes;

most student loans;

domestic support and property settlement obligations;

most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; and

certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers.

You may also be required to pay debts arising from:

fraud or theft;

fraud or defalcation while acting in breach of fiduciary capacity;

intentional injuries that you inflicted; and

death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs.

If your debts are primarily consumer debts, the court can dismiss your chapter 7 case if it finds that you have enough income to repay creditors a certain amount. You must file *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 122A-1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income that applies in your state.

If your income is not above the median for your state, you will not have to complete the other chapter 7 form, the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2).

If your income is above the median for your state, you must file a second form—the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2). The calculations on the form—sometimes called the *Means Test*—deduct from your income living expenses and payments on certain debts to determine any amount available to pay unsecured creditors. If

your income is more than the median income for your state of residence and family size, depending on the results of the *Means Test*, the U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or creditors can file a motion to dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If a motion is filed, the court will decide if your case should be dismissed. To avoid dismissal, you may choose to proceed under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

If you are an individual filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy, the trustee may sell your property to pay your debts, subject to your right to exempt the property or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the property. The property, and the proceeds from property that your bankruptcy trustee sells or liquidates that you are entitled to, is called *exempt property*. Exemptions may enable you to keep your home, a car, clothing, and household items or to receive some of the proceeds if the property is sold.

Exemptions are not automatic. To exempt property, you must list it on *Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt* (Official Form 106C). If you do not list the property, the trustee may sell it and pay all of the proceeds to your creditors.

Chapter 11: Reorganization

	\$1,167	filing fee
+	\$550	administrative fee
	\$1,717	total fee

Chapter 11 is often used for reorganizing a business, but is also available to individuals. The provisions of chapter 11 are too complicated to summarize briefly.

Read These Important Warnings

Because bankruptcy can have serious long-term financial and legal consequences, including loss of your property, you should hire an attorney and carefully consider all of your options before you file. Only an attorney can give you legal advice about what can happen as a result of filing for bankruptcy and what your options are. If you do file for bankruptcy, an attorney can help you fill out the forms properly and protect you, your family, your home, and your possessions.

Although the law allows you to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, you should understand that many people find it difficult to represent themselves successfully. The rules are technical, and a mistake or inaction may harm you. If you file without an attorney, you are still responsible for knowing and following all of the legal requirements.

You should not file for bankruptcy if you are not eligible to file or if you do not intend to file the necessary documents.

Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned if you commit fraud in your bankruptcy case. Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

Chapter 12: Repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

	\$200	filing fee
+	\$75	administrative fee
	\$275	total fee

Similar to chapter 13, chapter 12 permits family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time using future earnings and to discharge some debts that are not paid.

Chapter 13: Repayment plan for individuals with regular income

	\$235	filing fee
+	\$75	administrative fee
	\$310	total fee

Chapter 13 is for individuals who have regular income and would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time and to discharge some debts that are not paid. You are eligible for chapter 13 only if your debts are not more than certain dollar amounts set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 109.

Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them, usually using your future earnings. If the court approves your plan, the court will allow you to repay your debts, as adjusted by the plan, within 3 years or 5 years, depending on your income and other factors.

After you make all the payments under your plan, many of your debts are discharged. The debts that are not discharged and that you may still be responsible to pay include:

domestic support obligations,

most student loans,

certain taxes,

debts for fraud or theft,

debts for fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity,

most criminal fines and restitution obligations,

certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers,

certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury, and

certain long-term secured debts.

Warning: File Your Forms on Time

Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information about your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. The court may dismiss your bankruptcy case if you do not file this information within the deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

For more information about the documents and their deadlines, go to:
http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy_forms.html#procedure.

Bankruptcy crimes have serious consequences

If you knowingly and fraudulently conceal assets or make a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury—either orally or in writing—in connection with a bankruptcy case, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both.

All information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and other offices and employees of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Make sure the court has your mailing address

The bankruptcy court sends notices to the mailing address you list on *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101). To ensure that you receive information about your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address.

A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*. If you file a joint case and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, the bankruptcy court generally will mail you and your spouse one copy of each notice, unless you file a statement with the court asking that each spouse receive separate copies.

Understand which services you could receive from credit counseling agencies

The law generally requires that you receive a credit counseling briefing from an approved credit counseling agency. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must receive the briefing. With limited exceptions, you must receive it within the 180 days **before** you file your bankruptcy petition. This briefing is usually conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, you generally must complete a financial management instructional course before you can receive a discharge. If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must complete the course.

You can obtain the list of agencies approved to provide both the briefing and the instructional course from:
http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc_approved.html

In Alabama and North Carolina, go to:
<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyResources/ApprovedCreditAndDebtCounselors.aspx>.

If you do not have access to a computer, the clerk of the bankruptcy court may be able to help you obtain the list.

United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Illinois

In re Tiffany F Decker

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter

7

DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Fed. Bankr. P. 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above named debtor(s) and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, I have agreed to accept	\$	<u>2,500.00</u>
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received	\$	<u>2,500.00</u>
Balance Due	\$	<u>0.00</u>

2. The source of the compensation paid to me was:

☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):

3. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:

☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):

4. ☒ I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.

☐ I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.

5. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:

- a. Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;
- b. Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;
- c. Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;
- d. [Other provisions as needed]

Negotiations with secured creditors to reduce to market value; exemption planning; preparation and filing of reaffirmation agreements and applications as needed; preparation and filing of motions pursuant to 11 USC 522(f)(2)(A) for avoidance of liens on household goods.

6. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

Representation of the debtors in any dischargeability actions, judicial lien avoidances, relief from stay actions or any other adversary proceeding.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

November 17, 2017

Date

/s/ Steven J. Brody

Steven J. Brody 06205619

Signature of Attorney

Steven J. Brody & Associates, Ltd.

15 W. Woodstock Street

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Name of law firm

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Illinois**

In re **Tiffany F Decker** Debtor(s) Case No. _____
Chapter **7**

VERIFICATION OF CREDITOR MATRIX

Number of Creditors: **48**

The above-named Debtor(s) hereby verifies that the list of creditors is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge.

Date: **November 17, 2017**

/s/ Tiffany F Decker
Tiffany F Decker
Signature of Debtor

Case 17-34440 Doc 1
Abbott Laboratories LLC
401 N Riverside Dr
Gurnee, IL 60031

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Comenity Bank/Avenue
Po Box 182125
Columbus, OH 43218

Decker, Tiffany -
Frontline Asset Strategies
2700 Snelling Avenue N, Suite 250
Saint Paul, MN 55113

Aes/ed Services Of A
Po Box 61047
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Comenity Bank/Express
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 182125
Columbus, OH 43218

Glenview State Bank
800 Waukegan Rd
Glenview, IL 60025

AES/Education Loans
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 2461
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Comenity Bank/Lane Bryant
Po Box 182125
Columbus, OH 43218

H & R Accounts, Inc
Po Box 672
Moline, IL 61265

Bank Of America
Nc4-105-03-14
Po Box 26012
Greensboro, NC 27410

Comenity Bank/Lane Bryant
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 182125
Columbus, OH 43218

IRS - Centralized Insolvency Opera
Post Office Box 7346
Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346

Blitt and Gaines, P.C.
661 W. Glenn Avenue
Wheeling, IL 60090

Dept Of Ed/Navient
Attn: Claims Dept
P.O. Box 9635
Wilkes Barr, PA 18773

Jh Portfolio Debt Equities LLC
5757 Phantom Dr Ste 225
Hazelwood, MO 63042

Cap One
Po Box 5253
Carol Stream, IL 60197

Dept Of Ed/Navient
Po Box 9635
Wilkes Barre, PA 18773

Joseph Sapyta
550 Deepwoods Drive, Apt. 2-D
Mundelein, IL 60060

Cavalry Portfolio Services
Attn: Bankruptcy Department
500 Summit Lake Ste 400
Valhalla, NY 10595

Diversified Consultant
Dci
Po Box 551268
Jacksonville, FL 32255

Kohls/Capital One
Kohls Credit
Po Box 3043
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Chase Card
Attn: Correspondence Dept
Po Box 15298
Wilmington, DE 19850

Edfinancial/educatio
120 N Seven Oaks Drive
Knoxville, TN 37922

Leroys Jewelers
Sterling Jewelers, Inc/Attn: Bankrupt
Po Box 1799
Akron, OH 44309

Citibank/Best Buy
Centralized Bk/Citicorp Credit Svcs
Po Box 790040
St Louis, MO 63179

Fifth Third Bank
Attn: Bankruptcy Department
1830 E Paris Ave Se
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Meyer & Njus PA
1100 U.S. Bank Plaza
200 S. Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Comenity Bank
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 182125
Columbus, OH 43218

FirstSource Advantage LLC
PO Box 628
Buffalo, NY 14240-0628

Midland Funding
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 939069
San Diego, CA 92193

Case 17-34440
Navient Solutions Inc
11100 Usa Pkwy
Fishers, IN 46037

Doc 1

Decker, Tiffany -
Synchrony Bank/Walmart
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 956060
Orlando, FL 32896

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Desc Main

Nordstrom Fsb
Correspondence
Po Box 6555
Englewood, CO 80155

Target
C/O Financial & Retail Srvs
Mailstopn BT POB 9475
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Peoples Gas
Attn: Bankruptcy
200 E Randolph
Chicago, IL 60601

Toyota Financial Services
Toyota Financial Services
Po Box 8026
Cedar Rapids, IA 52409

Sentry Credit, Inc
PO Box 12070
Everett, WA 98206

Toyota Motor Credit
Toyota Financial Services
Po Box 8026
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

Source Receivables Mgmt, Llc
Po Box 4068
Greensboro, NC 27404

US Dept of Education
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 16448
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Synco/Lord & Taylor
Po Box 965064
Orlando, FL 32896

Visa Dept Store National Bank/Macy's
Po Box 8218
Mason, OH 45040

Synchrony Bank/ JC Penneys
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 956060
Orlando, FL 32896

Von Maur, Inc
Attn: Credit Dept
6565 Brady St.
Davenport, IA 52806

Synchrony Bank/American Eagle
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 956060
Orlando, FL 32896

Wffnatbank
Po Box 94498
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Synchrony Bank/Care Credit
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 956060
Orlando, FL 32896

Synchrony Bank/Gap
Attn: Bankruptcy
Po Box 956060
Orlando, FL 32896